

2:24-cr-00155-JAD-DJA • September 27, 2024

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
4 Plaintiff,) Case No. 2:24-cr-00155-JAD-DJA
5 vs.) Las Vegas, Nevada
6 MICHELE FIORE,) September 27, 2024
7 Defendant.) 8:50 a.m. - 10:42 a.m.
) Courtroom 6D
) JURY TRIAL, DAY 4

8 ***CERTIFIED COPY***

9
10 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
11 JURY TRIAL, DAY 4
12 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JENNIFER A. DORSEY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

13 APPEARANCES:

14 For the Government: **ALEXANDER B. GOTTFRIED, ESQ.**
15 **DAHOUH ASKAR, ESQ.**
16 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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(202) 368-1667

18 *(Appearances continued on page 2.)*

19
20
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Amber McClane, RPR, CRR

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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2 For the Defendant:

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8 * * * * *

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I N D E X C O N T .

E X H I B I T S

<u>EXHIBIT NO.:</u>	<u>OFFERED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>WITHDRAWN</u>
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1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024; 8:50 A.M.

2 --o0o--

3 P R O C E E D I N G S

4 *(Outside the presence of the jury.)*

5 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** This is the time set for
6 jury trial, Day 4, in Case 2:24-cr-155-JAD-DJA, United States
7 of America versus Michele Fiore.

8 Please make your appearances.

9 **MR. ASKAR:** Good morning, Your Honor. Dahoud Askar
10 here on behalf of the United States along with my colleagues.

11 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Alexander Gottfried on behalf of the
12 United States. Also seated at counsel table today is
13 Special Agent Kyle Jaski of the FBI and, as always, Heather
14 DePremio.

15 **MR. SANFT:** Good morning, Your Honor. Michael Sanft
16 on behalf of Ms. Fiore who's present, as well as my assistant,
17 Megan Hampton.

18 **THE COURT:** All right. Good morning, everybody.

19 Mr. Askar, what do we need to address this morning?

20 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, very briefly, Ms. Rivera
21 notified us at the end of proceedings yesterday that it
22 appears Exhibit 81 was admitted. Exhibit 81, to refresh Your
23 Honor's recollection, were the checks -- the individual checks
24 from Mr. Lee's account. Your Honor had ruled that, given that
25 Exhibit 81 is a subset of Exhibit 10 and in light of concerns

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1 about running afoul of the Court's 404 order, that we would
2 use that demonstratively instead.

3 So I don't know if the best court of action at this
4 moment is to just have that exhibit withdrawn or if there's
5 another preference, but we wanted to bring that to the Court's
6 attention.

7 **THE COURT:** I think that's probably the best thing to
8 do, is just to have it withdrawn and note for the record that
9 it was being utilized for demonstrative purposes only.

10 So, Summer, if you can let the record reflect that
11 Exhibit 81 has been withdrawn. It is not in evidence. It is
12 also -- it also was a subset of Exhibit 10. So the documents
13 themselves were already in evidence based on the parties'
14 stipulation at the beginning of trial. Nevertheless,
15 Exhibit 81 was just used with Mr. Lee for demonstrative
16 purposes.

17 *(Exhibit No. 81, withdrawn.)*

18 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Yes, Your Honor.

19 **MR. ASKAR:** Perfect, Your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** All right. Is that acceptable,
21 Mr. Sanft?

22 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

24 Anything else?

25 **MR. ASKAR:** Nothing from the Government, Your Honor.

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1 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, we'll find out if we've
2 got all the jurors here yet. It's only 8:52 so we probably
3 don't have everyone yet, but it's a prompt bunch so there were
4 people buzzing in just after 8:00.

5 **MR. ASKAR:** Oh, wow.

6 **THE COURT:** So just relax.

7 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

8 *(Pause in proceedings.)*

9 **THE COURT:** All right. Sounds like all the jurors
10 are here, so Summer's going to bring them in.

11 Who's up first this morning?

12 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** We have Harry Mohny.

13 **THE COURT:** Okay. Everybody's lined up outside?

14 **MR. ASKAR:** At least two of -- at least two of the --
15 or, excuse me, we have three witnessed lined up outside now,
16 Your Honor.

17 **THE COURT:** Wonderful. Are they all going to be
18 short ones?

19 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** The first three should be short.

20 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** All rise.

21 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** I'm not sure. The next two might be
22 slightly longer.

23 *(Jury in at 9:00 a.m.)*

24 **THE COURT:** All right. Good morning, everyone. Have
25 a seat.

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1 Will the parties stipulate to the presence of the
2 jury?

3 **MR. ASKAR:** Yes, Your Honor.

4 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. Everyone, sit down.

6 And, Government, please call your next witness.

7 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Government calls Harry Mohnney.

8 **THE COURT:** Good morning, sir. You're going to head
9 right on up here.

10 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

11 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Watch your step here, and
12 you're just going to walk around here and there's two more
13 steps. Raise your right hand.

14 *(The witness is sworn.)*

15 **THE WITNESS:** I do.

16 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Go ahead and take a seat.

17 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

18 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** And then just state and
19 spell your first and last name. You might just need to --

20 **THE WITNESS:** You don't want my middle name today?

21 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Not today. You might need
22 to scoot up just a tad.

23 **THE WITNESS:** Harry Mohnney, M-o-h-n-e-y.

24 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

25 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

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Harry Mohnney - Direct
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1 Q. Good morning, sir.

2 A. Good morning.

3 Q. Could you tell the jury whether -- are you still working,
4 or are you retired?

5 A. I'm still working.

6 Q. And what is it that you do for work?

7 A. Well, I'm all kinds of entrepreneurial. But I have
8 Hammered Harry's downtown. I have Cat's Meow, a karaoke bar
9 downtown. But I'm mostly infamous for gentlemen's clubs.

10 **THE COURT:** Sir, can I ask you to pull that
11 microphone a little closer to you? You can stay where you're
12 seated but -- there we are. Thank you so much. You're a
13 little -- your voice is a little low. So thank you so much.

14 You can continue, Mr. Gottfried.

15 **THE WITNESS:** I apologize for that.

16 **THE COURT:** No worries.

17 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

18 Q. Sir, is it fair to say that you own a number of different
19 types of businesses?

20 A. It's fair to say.

21 Q. And do you -- either personally or through your
22 businesses, do you give to charitable causes?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What types of charitable causes do you generally give to?

25 A. Oh, orphans... gee, trying to think of them all. Gee.

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1 Foundations for different causes. Police associations.

2 Lion's club. I'm trying to rattle off things off the top of
3 my head. Railroad museum. I'm sure there's --

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. -- numerous other causes. But yes.

6 Q. So, sir, you mentioned the police association. Why is
7 that cause important to you?

8 A. Well, without police, we have anarchy. So, you know,
9 it's important -- who you gonna call? I mean, to be humorous,
10 I'm not going to call Ghostbusters. So I need the police as
11 much as anybody else.

12 Q. Sure. Now, sir, do you recall or have you been made
13 aware of a check that you wrote to an organization called
14 Future for Nevadans?

15 A. Yes, I have.

16 MR. GOTTFRIED: And, Heather, can you bring up what's
17 already in evidence as Government's Exhibit 66? If you could
18 blow up the check.

19 BY MR. GOTTFRIED:

20 Q. So, sir, up at the top left of the check it says, Harry
21 V. Mohny Revocable Trust. Is that -- what is that?

22 A. That's my revocable trust.

23 Q. And if you could explain to the jury, what is a revocable
24 trust?

25 A. It's basically your assets in trust managed by yourself.

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1 I could revoke it at any time, and all the assets would
2 actually fall back in my personal name. Mostly set up for
3 inheritances purposes.

4 Q. And do you also use this trust to make the types of
5 charitable donations that we were discussing earlier?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now, sir, looking at this check, what is the -- what is
8 the group or organization that this check is made out to?

9 A. Future for Nevadans.

10 Q. And what is the amount of the check?

11 A. \$2,000.

12 Q. And the date on the check?

13 A. 11/15/19.

14 Q. And what about -- what does the memo line say?

15 A. Donation.

16 Q. So, sir, is it fair to say this was intended as a
17 charitable donation?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And did you -- the signature line, your name is up at the
20 top but it says by someone else. Can you explain who signed
21 this check?

22 A. I don't write checks and haven't for numerous years.
23 Laurie Bowers in the offices back in Michigan writes all my
24 personal checks. So she signs my name and her name.

25 Q. Now, sir, I see the address on the revocable trust is

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1 Michigan, and you said that Laurie Bowers is in Michigan as
2 well. Do you live here in Las Vegas, or do you live in
3 Michigan?

4 **A.** I live in Las Vegas.

5 **Q.** Okay. Do you also have business in Michigan?

6 **A.** Yes, I do.

7 **Q.** Now, sir, do you recall what it was that caused you to
8 make this donation to Future for Nevadans?

9 **A.** To the best of my memory, somebody had approached me
10 about making a donation for some statue or tribute to a fallen
11 police officer.

12 **Q.** So, sir, you said somebody approached you to ask you to
13 make a donation for a statue of a fallen police officer?

14 **A.** Correct.

15 **Q.** Now, sir, in searching your records related to that
16 check, did you find whether you maintained anything in writing
17 regarding the purpose of that check?

18 **A.** I couldn't find anything.

19 **Q.** Did anyone who worked for you find anything regarding the
20 purpose of that check?

21 **A.** Yes. Laurie Bowers found the -- I guess the solicitation
22 paper that I had forwarded to her to approve the donation.

23 **Q.** So, sir, you said Laurie Bowers. Is that the same person
24 who signed the check on your behalf?

25 **A.** Yes, it is.

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1 Q. And she found -- where was that flyer located that she
2 found?

3 A. In her office I believe or in her computer. One of the
4 two.

5 Q. Okay. And do you know why she kept that flyer?

6 A. She pretty much keeps a record of everything that has to
7 do with my account.

8 Q. So she regularly keeps, you know, records of payments
9 made from your accounts?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And have you seen a copy of that flyer that she -- that
12 she kept?

13 A. Yes. I forwarded it to her.

14 Q. You forwarded it to her. And is that in your e-mail
15 account?

16 A. I couldn't find it in my e-mail account. I didn't know
17 if I faxed it or e-mailed it. I assumed I e-mailed it, but I
18 couldn't find it in mine. I'm not as computer literate as
19 everybody else is. I'm a little, I hate to say it, old
20 school. But you didn't ask me how old I am.

21 Q. And I won't ask you how old you are, sir.

22 A. That's kind of you.

23 Q. Sir, do you see the binders that are located on your
24 right?

25 A. Yes, I do.

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1 Q. Can you flip through the binders? I think it may be the
2 second one, but we're looking for Exhibit 65.

3 **THE COURT:** Actually, it's going to be in this one
4 right here. It's the last one. Sixty-five, sir.

5 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

6 Q. And just let me know when you get there.

7 **A.** And is it the 65th page or --

8 Q. I don't believe so. But it will say Exhibit 65 in a
9 yellow box on the -- on the exhibit.

10 **THE COURT:** There are tabs. If you find 65 on those
11 tabs.

12 **THE WITNESS:** Oh, okay. The tab tells me that. I
13 have Exhibit 65.

14 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

15 Q. You have Exhibit 65 in front of you. Sir, is this the
16 flyer that you forwarded to your assistant, Laurie Bowers, in
17 relation to that check that we looked at?

18 **A.** Yes, it is.

19 Q. And do you recall, you know, having seen this flyer, you
20 know, and this flyer causing you to make that donation?

21 **A.** I vaguely recall that. I'm assuming one of my attorneys
22 or somebody close enough to me had called me and asked me to
23 donate for this cause.

24 Q. So you have a recollection, sir, that someone called you
25 and asked you to donate to this cause?

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1 **A.** That would be my memory, yes.

2 **Q.** And that that person also sent you this flyer?

3 **A.** I would believe so, yes.

4 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Your Honor, at this point I'd ask to
5 move Government's Exhibit 65 into evidence.

6 *(Exhibit No. 65, offered.)*

7 **MR. SANFT:** I have no objection, Your Honor.

8 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** And ask to publish to the jury.

9 **THE COURT:** 65 will come in, and you can publish.

10 *(Exhibit No. 65, received.)*

11 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

12 **Q.** Sir, could you read the -- what the writing says on this
13 flyer that's on the screen in front of you?

14 **A.** All of it?

15 **Q.** Yep, the whole thing.

16 **A.** Looks like [as read]: Will dedicate and open the new
17 Alyn Beck park in Ward 6. A bronze statute will be unveiled
18 in Alyn Beck's honor. Please donate to Future Nevada's [sic]
19 PAC. All donations will go towards our goal to reach \$80,000.
20 Make checks payable to Future of -- for Nevadans, 6205 Red
21 Pine Court, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103.

22 **Q.** Now, sir, before receiving this flyer, do you recall
23 knowing anything about that organization, Future for Nevadans
24 PAC?

25 **A.** No, I've never heard of it.

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1 Q. Do you recall having ever made a donation to Future for
2 Nevadans PAC?

3 A. Never.

4 Q. Do you know the defendant in this case, Michele Fiore?

5 A. No, I don't.

6 Q. Would you have made a donation to support a political
7 action committee associated with Michele Fiore?

8 A. Probably not.

9 Q. And do you know anything -- that address that's on the
10 bottom, 6205 Red Pine Court, does that mean anything to you?

11 A. Nothing, no.

12 Q. So you said you don't know the defendant. Is the
13 defendant the one who reached out to you and gave you this
14 flyer?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you have any idea of who may have been the person to
17 reach out to you?

18 A. Well, if it was a donation, usually the police
19 association. It's usually one of my attorneys or a police
20 association member.

21 Q. Now, is one of your attorneys a gentleman named Jay
22 Brown?

23 A. Yes, he is.

24 Q. Thank you, sir.

25 MR. GOTTFRIED: You can take that down, Heather.

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1 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

2 Q. Sir, based on this flyer and based on your recollection,
3 when you made this donation, did you believe that it would be
4 used to fund the Alyn Beck statue?

5 **A.** Yes, I did.

6 Q. Would you have given that money if you believed that it
7 would be used for Councilwoman Fiore's personal expenses?

8 **A.** No, I wouldn't have.

9 Q. Would you have given that money if you believed that it
10 would be used for political -- you know, Councilwoman Fiore's
11 political career?

12 **A.** No, I wouldn't have.

13 Q. Were you ever contacted by Councilwoman Fiore to say that
14 your donation was not needed for the statue?

15 **A.** No, I was not.

16 Q. Were you ever contacted by Councilwoman Fiore or anybody
17 else to ask if your money could be used for something besides
18 the statue?

19 **A.** No, I was not.

20 Q. And were you ever reimbursed for the donation that you
21 made to Future for Nevadans?

22 **A.** No, I wasn't.

23 Q. Thank you, sir. I have no further questions for you.

24 **THE COURT:** Cross-examination, Mr. Sanft?

25 **MR. SANFT:** Thank you, Your Honor.

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Harry Mohnhey - Cross
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CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. SANFT:

Q. Good morning, Mr. Mohnhey.

A. Good morning.

Q. Just a couple follow-up questions for you --

A. Pardon me, sir?

Q. I'm sorry?

A. I couldn't hear you.

Q. I apologize. Just a couple more follow-up questions for you, and then we'll --

A. Not a problem.

Q. The first thing is, is when was the first time you spoke to the FBI on this case?

A. Maybe day before yesterday.

Q. That was the first time you spoke to them?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. If I tell you that it was on September 18th of this particular month and year, would that be more accurate for you?

A. December 18th?

Q. Or September 18th. I apologize. I'm missing my dates, too.

A. What?

Q. On the 18th of this month that you actually spoke to the --

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1 **A.** Eighteenth of this month? I don't think I spoke to them
2 on the 18th. They may have spoke to one of my attorneys, but
3 I don't believe they spoke to me personally.

4 **Q.** Okay. So your recollection is the day before yesterday
5 you had an interview with the FBI?

6 **A.** I believe it was day before yesterday. It could have
7 been three days ago. But, yes, it was very recent.

8 **Q.** Sure. And I'm not trying to pin you down on anything. I
9 just want to make sure.

10 **A.** Oh, I have no problem.

11 **Q.** Now -- and that would have been the first time you
12 actually spoke with the FBI?

13 **A.** In my life?

14 **Q.** No, no. For this particular case.

15 **A.** For this case?

16 **Q.** I don't want to know about the rest of it. Just on this
17 one.

18 **A.** Well, I'm glad. To the best of my memory, yes.

19 **Q.** Okay. Now, in speaking with the FBI, at that point you
20 were notified through the Government basically that there was
21 some issue with regards to a donation that you had made
22 towards a particular statue; right?

23 **A.** Okay. That was quite a line. But, yeah, I believe
24 you're correct.

25 **Q.** Yeah. So it wasn't like you thought, wait, what happened

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Harry Mohnhey - Cross
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1 to this donation to the statue, I want to follow up on that,
2 nothing like that; right?

3 **A.** Okay. Again, I can't hear you very well.

4 **Q.** I apologize. It wasn't like you said, hey, you know
5 what, I want to know what happened to my 2,000-dollar donation
6 to the statue, and then followed up like that; right? You
7 didn't do that?

8 **A.** You mean did I call somebody to say, hey, what happened
9 to the \$2,000?

10 **Q.** Right.

11 **A.** No, I didn't. I just --

12 **Q.** Now --

13 **A.** -- assumed it went to the right place.

14 **Q.** Right. And with regards to your -- your activity with
15 charitable donations, you do a lot of these types of
16 donations? You've shared that with us.

17 **A.** Yes, we do.

18 **Q.** Okay. And have you ever received a reimbursement back
19 for any charitable donation you've made before in the past?

20 **A.** No, I have not.

21 **Q.** Okay. And with regards to the remainder of the questions
22 the government asked you, had you ever been called by a
23 charitable organization and say, hey, we fulfilled this
24 particular project, we would like to take your money and
25 instead of put it into, say, the statue, we want to put it

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1 into something that's another charitable sort of thing? Have
2 you ever had that happened to you before?

3 **A.** I don't recall that ever happening.

4 **Q.** Okay. Now, in addition to that -- I just want to make
5 sure I'm clear here. Your recollection is that there was a
6 flyer, but you don't know how you received the flyer?

7 **A.** I don't recall exactly how it came. It was probably by
8 e-mail.

9 **Q.** Yeah. And with regards to your meeting with the FBI, you
10 gave them everything you had, including potentially what could
11 have been an e-mail; right?

12 **A.** I gave them everything I could find, yes.

13 **Q.** So everything with regards -- they showed you today, was
14 that the things that you gave them, which was a copy of the
15 check, as well -- or maybe -- I don't know if they gave you a
16 copy of the check. But the flyer, for instance, and so forth,
17 you gave them all of that?

18 **A.** Correct.

19 **Q.** Okay. I have no further questions, sir. Thank you.

20 **A.** I'm disappointed.

21 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** I have nothing further for
22 Mr. Mohnhey. We would ask that the witness be excused.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. Can I excuse this witness,
24 Mr. Sanft?

25 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

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1 **THE COURT:** Thank you, sir. You can step down. You
2 are excused.

3 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

4 **THE COURT:** Please watch your step.

5 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

6 **THE COURT:** And that step right there in front of the
7 jury.

8 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you, again.

9 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Have a good day, sir.

10 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** Next witness, Mr. Gottfried.

12 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Next witness, the government calls
13 Brett Torino.

14 **THE COURT:** Hi, there. You're going to head right on
15 up here.

16 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Watch your step right here.
17 And you're just going to around here. There's two more steps.
18 Raise your right hand.

19 *(The witness is sworn.)*

20 **THE WITNESS:** I do.

21 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Go ahead and take a seat.
22 State and spell your first and last name.

23 **THE WITNESS:** My name is Brett Torino; B-r-e-t-t,
24 T-o-r-i-n-o.

25 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

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Brett Torino - Direct
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1 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

2 Q. Good morning, sir.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. How are you?

5 A. I'm good. Thank you.

6 Q. Could you please tell the members of the jury what is it
7 that you do for a living?

8 A. I'm a developer here. I have a company based here in
9 Las Vegas.

10 Q. You said you're a developer?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What type of developer?

13 A. Primarily -- well, all I do here is I'm probably the
14 largest private Strip developer today. So I develop
15 commercial properties on the Strip.

16 Q. I'm sorry, sir, could you speak up just a little bit --

17 A. Yeah, sure. I develop commercial properties on the
18 Strip.

19 Q. What are some of the properties that you've developed on
20 the Strip?

21 A. If I go back historically, I owned the whole block across
22 from CityCenter at one point. I own two commercial properties
23 on each side of Harmon and Las Vegas Boulevard, so where
24 Crystals and Cosmopolitan is. And then I'm currently in
25 escrow to buy a large parcel next to the Fontainebleau in

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1 front of the Convention Center. So that's primarily what I
2 do.

3 Q. And you said you got a company here in Las Vegas. What
4 is -- what is the name of that company?

5 A. Torino Companies.

6 Q. Torino Companies?

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. What is BPS Management Services?

9 A. These properties that we have, have many entities. So
10 BPS is one of several entities on a property that we own on
11 the northeast corner of Harmon and the Strip.

12 Q. Okay. And what is your role, if any, with BPS Management
13 Services?

14 A. I believe I'm manager or one of the managers. It's an
15 LLC.

16 Q. Okay. It's an LLC. And you have a managerial role
17 with --

18 A. I do --

19 Q. -- that LLC?

20 A. -- yes. That's correct.

21 Q. Sir, either -- do you regularly make donations to
22 charitable causes?

23 A. I own a foundation. I mean, I've run a foundation here
24 for 30 years. So I have to say yes.

25 Q. What type of work does your foundation do?

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1 **A.** I have a ranch where we do camps for kids with critical
2 illnesses.

3 **Q.** And in addition to that, the work that your foundation
4 does, do you give to other charities as well?

5 **A.** I do.

6 **Q.** And is that in your personal capacity, or do you also do
7 that through your companies?

8 **A.** Both.

9 **Q.** Both. Have you made charitable donations through BPS
10 Management Services?

11 **A.** I do.

12 **Q.** Why do you feel that it's important to make charitable
13 donations, you know, through your businesses?

14 **A.** I have partners in some of the projects that I own, and I
15 always feel that they should bear some of freight when I do
16 things. I spend a lot of money through my foundation that I
17 don't ask my partners for contributions. But on this, you
18 know, I felt it was a fair thing to do.

19 **Q.** Now, sir, are you the person who authorizes donations
20 from BPS Management?

21 **A.** I'm one of them that could, sure.

22 **Q.** Now, in December of 2019, did BPS Management make a
23 donation to a statue of Officer Alyn Beck?

24 **A.** As to the date, I'm somewhat fuzzy. But that would be
25 yes.

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1 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Heather, can you please put up on the
2 screen what's already in evidence as Government's Exhibit 52?
3 If you could blow that up?

4 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

5 Q. Sir, do you see the check that's up on the screen in
6 front of you?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. And the name at the top left over there, BPS Management
9 Services, that's one of your companies?

10 A. It is.

11 Q. And the -- the date of that check, what's the date of
12 that check?

13 A. December 30th, '19.

14 Q. And who is the check made out to?

15 A. A -- it looks like A Bright Present Foundation.

16 Q. Is that an organization that you have any familiarity
17 with outside this particular donation?

18 A. The donation I'm aware of. But in terms of the
19 organization beyond that, I don't.

20 Q. Do you know how you would have learned where to direct
21 your donation to?

22 A. I couldn't specifically tell you, but I could have either
23 read something about it or I could have heard it from somebody
24 I'm involved with politically. I --

25 Q. Okay.

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1 **A.** -- can't tell you specifically but --

2 **Q.** Sir, do you know the defendant in this case, Michele
3 Fiore?

4 **A.** I don't.

5 **Q.** So you would not have spoken with her directly regarding
6 this donation?

7 **A.** No, no.

8 **Q.** But you may have spoken with someone who you said that --
9 who you're involved with politically?

10 **A.** That's right.

11 **Q.** Now, who -- what signature is on the bottom right there?

12 **A.** That's mine.

13 **Q.** That's your signature?

14 **A.** It is.

15 **Q.** So you -- you authorized this check?

16 **A.** I did.

17 **Q.** And when you authorized this check, where did you
18 believe -- you know, how did you believe that your money was
19 going to be used?

20 **A.** I believed it was going to be used for a statue that was
21 honoring a fallen police officer.

22 **Q.** Now, when you made this donation, would you have made
23 this donation if you believed it would be used for Michele
24 Fiore's personal expenses?

25 **A.** No.

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1 Q. Would you have believed -- would you have made this
2 donation if you thought it would be used for Michele Fiore's
3 political career?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Were you ever contacted by Michele Fiore to say that your
6 donation was no longer needed for the statue?

7 A. No, we've never spoken.

8 Q. Were you ever contacted by Michele Fiore or anyone else
9 to ask if she could use the donation for something besides the
10 statue?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And were you or your company ever reimbursed for the
13 donation that you made to the statue?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Thank you, sir. That's all the questions I have for you
16 this morning.

17 A. Okay.

18 **THE COURT:** Mr. Sanft, cross-examination?

19 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 **BY MR. SANFT:**

22 Q. I just have one question for you, Mr. Torino.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Were you aware that the statue was actually built?

25 A. No.

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1 **MR. SANFT:** No further questions, Your Honor.

2 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Nothing further for Mr. Torino. We
3 would ask that he be excused.

4 **THE COURT:** May I excuse this witness, Mr. Sanft?

5 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you so much, sir. You
7 can step down. You're excused.

8 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you, Judge.

9 **THE COURT:** Please watch your step. And particularly
10 that one right there in front of the jury box.

11 **THE WITNESS:** Appreciate that.

12 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

13 Next witness, Mr. Gottfried.

14 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Government's next witness is Alyssa
15 Struck.

16 **THE COURT:** Hi, there. You're going to head right on
17 up here.

18 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Just watch your step here.

19 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

20 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** And you'll just go around.
21 Please raise your right hand.

22 *(The witness is sworn.)*

23 **THE WITNESS:** I do.

24 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Go ahead and take a seat,
25 and state and spell your first and last name.

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1 **THE WITNESS:** Alyssa Struck. That's A-l-y-s-s-a,
2 S-t-r-u-c-k.

3 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

4 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

5 Q. Good morning.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. Could you tell the jury where it is that you work?

8 A. Plastic Surgery Vegas.

9 Q. Plastic Surgery Vegas. What -- it might be
10 self-explanatory, but what type of business is that?

11 A. A cosmetic surgery office.

12 Q. It's an office that provides cosmetic surgery?

13 A. Um-hum.

14 Q. What is your role there?

15 A. I'm a custodian of records. I do our HR, and I manage
16 our front office staff.

17 Q. Okay. Do you have a formal title?

18 A. Administrative supervisor.

19 Q. Okay. So you're not personally providing cosmetic
20 surgery services. You're more of an administrative role?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, when a client comes in for treatment, does your
23 company keep records associated with that treatment?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you do that for all clients and all treatments?

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1 **A.** Yeah.

2 **Q.** What type of records do you keep?

3 **A.** I mean, medical, financial records.

4 **Q.** And when you say financial records, what are you talking
5 about?

6 **A.** I guess it would just be you have a service and then you
7 pay for it, and so we have a record of that.

8 **Q.** So you have records of payments made by clients for
9 services?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** Do you have records of, I guess, invoices or bills for --
12 for clients?

13 **A.** Yep.

14 **Q.** What's the purpose of those records?

15 **A.** As a business, I guess just to have a record and show
16 what people have had done and paid for.

17 **Q.** Can you tell us how those records are generated?

18 **A.** A patient calls. They schedule an appointment. That
19 enters into our system, kind of puts a date stamp. They have
20 the service, they check out, they pay for it, it's put into --

21 **Q.** Is there someone who is manually inputting that
22 information into the system?

23 **A.** Right. That's then input into a system that collects all
24 of that information.

25 **Q.** Okay. And is that done at the time that, you know,

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1 someone makes an appointment or makes a payment?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 Q. Do the -- I want to talk to you about some of the
4 information that the records show. Do they show the date of a
5 procedure?

6 **A.** Yep.

7 Q. Do they show who the provider was of that procedure?

8 **A.** Yes.

9 Q. Do they give a description of the type of procedure that
10 was provided?

11 **A.** Yep.

12 Q. Do they show how much that procedure cost?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 Q. And how much was paid for the procedure?

15 **A.** Yes.

16 Q. Do they also provide -- do patients have accounts with
17 your -- with your company?

18 **A.** Describe accounts.

19 Q. If someone comes in and they're a regular client of your
20 business, do they have, you know -- are -- is there a record
21 that's kept for those -- that one particular client?

22 **A.** Yes, yes.

23 Q. And, ma'am, in February of 2021, was your office served
24 with a subpoena for documents from a grand jury sitting in the
25 district of Nevada?

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1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** And did that subpoena request all records from
3 January 2017 until February 2021 pertaining services that were
4 provided to or paid for by Michele Fiore?

5 **A.** Yes.

6 **Q.** Did you provide records in response to that subpoena?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Were those records created during the regular course of
9 your business by a person with knowledge of the information
10 contained in those records?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** Have you reviewed -- had a chance to review those records
13 prior to coming in and testifying today?

14 **A.** Yeah.

15 **THE COURT:** Can you keep your voice up for us?
16 You're kind of soft-spoken. Thank you.

17 **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

18 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

19 **Q.** And are those records that you reviewed, you know, a true
20 and accurate record of services that were provided to Michele
21 Fiore and payments that were received by her?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Ma'am, you're going to have a binder located on your
24 right. There's a few of them. It should be the last one. If
25 you could flip to Exhibit 85.

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1 **THE COURT:** It's going to be this one.

2 **THE WITNESS:** Okay. Okay.

3 **BY MR. GOTTFRIED:**

4 Q. Are you there?

5 A. Yep.

6 Q. If you could just flip through quickly. Are these the
7 records that your office provided in response to that
8 subpoena?

9 A. Yeah -- yes. Correct.

10 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Your Honor, at this point government
11 moves Exhibit 85 into evidence.

12 *(Exhibit No. 85, offered.)*

13 **MR. SANFT:** No objection, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** 85 will come in.

15 *(Exhibit No. 85, received.)*

16 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** No further questions for this
17 witness.

18 **THE COURT:** Mr. Sanft, any cross?

19 **MR. SANFT:** Just a couple questions, Your Honor.

20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 **BY MR. SANFT:**

22 Q. Good morning.

23 A. Hi.

24 Q. Just a couple questions, if I could.

25 The record that you are talking about here, it's --

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1 you're not the doctor; right?

2 **A.** No.

3 **Q.** All right. And so these are medical procedures that are
4 performed on a patient; right?

5 **A.** Correct.

6 **Q.** And you're just here to say like, hey, these are things
7 that are paid for of work that was done through your office?

8 **A.** Correct.

9 **Q.** Okay.

10 **MR. SANFT:** No further questions. Thank you.

11 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Nothing further for this witness from
12 the government. We ask that Ms. Struck be excused.

13 **THE COURT:** All right. Can I excuse this witness,
14 please?

15 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Ms. Struck. You can step
17 down. You are excused. You can leave that right there.
18 We'll take care of it.

19 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

20 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Watch your step. And that
21 step right there in front of the jury box.

22 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

24 Mr. Askar?

25 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, at this time we just ask for

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1 a very brief break in between the government's final two
2 witnesses for the day.

3 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, we are going to take an
4 early morning break, and I -- are we waiting on some witnesses
5 to get here?

6 **MR. ASKAR:** We have a witness that is here. And
7 then, Your Honor, we're just going to work with Ms. Rivera to
8 see what we can do about the technology.

9 **THE COURT:** Got it. Okay.

10 So -- and just so the jury's aware, our next witness
11 will appear by Zoom; is that right?

12 **MR. ASKAR:** I believe that's our intention,
13 Your Honor. We may switch things up a little bit if we need
14 to, but that's our current intention.

15 **THE COURT:** All right. Fantastic. So do we need
16 just a ten-minute break right now then or --

17 **MR. ASKAR:** I think that would be great, Your Honor.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. So it will be about a ten-minute
19 break. You remember the rules. Don't talk about the case
20 among yourselves or with anybody else. Don't read, view, or
21 listen to anything about the case. Don't conduct any of your
22 own research, and please wait to formulate your opinions until
23 you've heard all of the evidence.

24 We'll see you in about ten minutes.

25 *(Jury out at 9:34 a.m.)*

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1 **THE COURT:** All right. We're going to try to hook up
2 the Zoom. Is that what we're going to do?

3 **MR. ASKAR:** That's exactly right, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** And, Mr. Sanft, before you step out, let
5 me just confirm: Everyone has agreed this witness may appear
6 by Zoom; right?

7 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

9 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** We're off record.

11 *(Recess at 9:35 a.m., until 9:45 a.m.)*

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Are we ready to bring the
13 jury back?

14 **MR. ASKAR:** Yes, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** Let's do that. All right. Ms. Council,
16 we're going to bring the jury back in, and then we'll go ahead
17 and introduce you and swear you in. Okay?

18 **THE WITNESS:** All right.

19 *(Pause in proceedings.)*

20 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** All rise.

21 *(Jury in at 9:46 a.m.)*

22 **THE COURT:** Welcome back. Welcome back. Will the
23 parties stipulate to the presence of the jury?

24 **MR. ASKAR:** Yes, Your Honor.

25 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

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1 **THE COURT:** All right. Everyone have a seat.

2 Our next witness is appearing by Zoom. So just
3 formally, Mr. Askar, call your next witness for us.

4 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, the United States calls
5 Ms. Ronnie Council to the stand.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. And she is with us --

7 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Oh, we lost her.

8 **THE COURT:** -- was with us by video. She's having
9 some challenges because she seems to be in a location where
10 the hurricane has impacted power. So we may have to go in and
11 out with her from time to time, but we'll figure out a way
12 through this. So please bear with us with these technical
13 difficulties.

14 I assume she's been told, if she drops off, she
15 should just keep trying to reconnect?

16 **MR. ASKAR:** Yes, Your Honor.

17 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** We're having someone try to contact
18 her.

19 *(Pause in proceedings.)*

20 **MR. ASKAR:** All right, Your Honor. If it's okay with
21 the Court, we'll give this another minute or two. And if that
22 isn't working, to make sure we're being respectful of
23 everyone's time, we'll call another witness and figure out
24 what we can do with Ms. Council moving forward.

25 **THE COURT:** Thank you. We'll give it another minute,

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1 see if she can connect. I promise it was working before
2 you-all came back in.

3 **MR. ASKAR:** That's why we took the break.

4 *(Pause in proceedings.)*

5 **THE COURT:** Any luck reaching her?

6 **MS. PRASAD:** Your Honor, she is attempting to log
7 back in.

8 **THE COURT:** All right. We'll give it another minute.

9 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Okay. There she is.

10 **THE WITNESS:** Can you guys hear me?

11 **THE COURT:** We can. Hello.

12 **THE WITNESS:** I have no idea what happened.

13 **THE COURT:** That's okay. If it's happens again, just
14 continue to try to reconnect. Okay?

15 **THE WITNESS:** Okay. Thank you.

16 **THE COURT:** All right. Summer's going to swear you
17 in. Can you raise your right hand, please? Summer.

18 *(The witness is sworn.)*

19 **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

20 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Thank you.

21 **THE COURT:** Please inquire, Mr. Askar.

22 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

23 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

24 **BY MR. ASKAR:**

25 Q. All right. Ms. Council, could you please tell the

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1 members of the jury, what do you do for a living?

2 **A.** I'm a political consultant. We do campaign work and
3 fundraising.

4 **Q.** All right. And do you own a company that does this work?

5 **A.** Yes, I do.

6 **Q.** And what's the name of that company?

7 **A.** Two companies. One is Organized Karma, and the other is
8 Alchemy.

9 **Q.** All right. I want to talk to you about Alchemy
10 Associates. But first I do want to make clear, I understand
11 you're in a place where there's a -- you're receiving, you
12 know, quite a bit of interference from the hurricane; is that
13 right?

14 **A.** Yes. We have no power, no Internet, and we had to
15 evacuate our farm because it flooded, so...

16 **Q.** All right. Well, I'm very sorry to hear that. I
17 appreciate you appearing with us here today.

18 **A.** Okay.

19 **Q.** We can try to be, again, as efficient as possible. Let's
20 talk about Alchemy.

21 **A.** Okay.

22 **Q.** In your capacity as the owner of Alchemy Associates, the
23 manager of Alchemy Associates, do you know the defendant,
24 Michele Fiore?

25 **A.** Yes.

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1 Q. Do you also have a personal relationship with Michele
2 Fiore?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. All right. Could you tell us --

5 A. We have attended, like -- sorry.

6 Q. No, you're fine. Could you tell us what the nature of
7 your personal relationship with Michele Fiore is.

8 A. We haven't talked in a while, but she attended my
9 wedding. I attended her daughter's wedding. We had a work
10 relationship. We -- but we didn't hang out on a regular
11 basis. But we would, you know, talk and go to dinner every
12 few months, stuff like that.

13 Q. Okay. Well, so now that we've covered the personal
14 relationship, let's talk about the professional relationship.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. What was the nature of the work that Alchemy did for
17 Michele Fiore?

18 A. Fundraising.

19 Q. Fundraising for what?

20 A. For her political stuff, her political PACs as well as
21 the campaigns that she had.

22 Q. All right. Do you charge for your fundraising services?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. All right. Do you tend to make up some kind of contract
25 that says, you know, you'll pay this amount every month or so?

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1 **A.** Informally, yes, we have agreements. Sometimes on paper;
2 sometimes verbal.

3 **Q.** Okay. When you have these agreements with people to do
4 their political fundraising, do you agree on exactly which
5 entities you're going to fundraise for?

6 **A.** We agree what type. I mean, if it's a political
7 campaign, and that's what we did for Michele, then we -- it
8 sometimes -- the agreement may be for, you know, her City
9 Council but we sometimes will do fundraising for the PAC as
10 well, the political PAC.

11 **Q.** Got it. And when you say PAC, that's political action
12 committee; right?

13 **A.** Correct. Correct.

14 **Q.** All right. If there was going -- so you mentioned, you
15 know, if they're in the same kind of vicinity, so a PAC and
16 campaign you might fundraise together for. If there was a
17 charity --

18 **A.** Correct.

19 **Q.** -- would you fundraise -- would that require a separate
20 agreement?

21 **A.** Normally, yes. We have worked for other charities, and
22 it's a different -- you pay -- the pay scale's a little
23 different.

24 **Q.** Got it. And, you know, for folks who want to use your
25 company to fundraise for them, do you want them to tell you

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1 what entities they plan on using your company for?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 Q. All right. And so you mentioned that you fundraised for
4 Michele Fiore's campaign. Is that to the best of your
5 knowledge --

6 **A.** Correct.

7 Q. What would you -- was the name of that campaign Future --
8 or Fiore for Nevada?

9 **A.** Yes, one of them. Yes.

10 Q. All right. You mentioned that you fundraised for her
11 political action committee. Was the name of that political
12 action committee Future for Nevadans?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 Q. All right. Are you familiar with A Bright Present
15 Foundation?

16 **A.** I am now.

17 Q. All right. Before speaking to the FBI or me, were you
18 familiar with A Bright Present Foundation?

19 **A.** No.

20 Q. All right. Fair to say that Michele Fiore never asked
21 you to use your political fundraising company to raise money
22 for that organization?

23 **A.** Her and I never discussed that.

24 Q. All right. Now, I want to talk to you about Contribution
25 & Expense Reports. What are those?

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1 **A.** Okay. They are where, for a campaign, you list all your
2 contributions and you list all of your expenses, and it's a
3 reporting mechanism.

4 **Q.** All right.

5 **A.** For PACs and campaigns.

6 **Q.** Did Alchemy Associates -- did Alchemy Associates assist
7 Michele Fiore in the preparation of Contribution & Expense
8 Reports?

9 **A.** She would provide us with the information, and we would
10 input it into the form on the Secretary of State site.

11 **Q.** Okay. I want to make sure we break that down for a
12 moment. You said that she would provide you the information?

13 **A.** Correct.

14 **Q.** Is it your understanding that Alchemy Associates did not
15 have access to Michele Fiore's bank records or receipts?

16 **A.** We did not have access.

17 **Q.** Okay. So you essentially received information from
18 Michele Fiore and then used that to input it into a form on
19 the Secretary of State's website, is that --

20 **A.** Correct, correct.

21 **Q.** Would you ask Michele Fiore to review it to make sure it
22 was accurate before you -- it was filed?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **MR. SANFT:** I apologize, Your Honor. May we
25 approach?

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1 **THE COURT:** Okay. Sidebar. We're going to take a
2 quick sidebar, Ms. Council. Just hang there with us.

3 *(At sidebar on the record.)*

4 **THE COURT:** What's going on?

5 **MR. SANFT:** Your Honor, just really quickly. The
6 line of questioning right now proffered by the government I
7 think infers potentially anything that goes before the statue.
8 I didn't want to object to it on the record because I wanted
9 to make sure that we were clear that, if we were talking
10 specifically in terms of time and date, I didn't hear time and
11 date yet -- which, in my opinion, would infer that somehow
12 this goes back in time. I just want to make sure that we keep
13 it towards the Court's ruling with regards to the time
14 periods.

15 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, I don't plan to ask
16 Ms. Council to go through any C&E dates; just largely that
17 this was her practice when Alchemy Associates assisted the
18 defendant in preparing C&Es.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay. Is that satisfactory then if he's
20 not talking about dates right now?

21 **MR. SANFT:** Well, I --

22 **THE COURT:** He's not going to get any exhibits in
23 with her either.

24 **MR. SANFT:** No. But I guess my concern is, is that
25 if it's not articulated at some point during the course of the

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1 direct examination -- I mean, I could do it on cross, but I
2 just think it just leads the jury in a position that they
3 believe that somehow this may have been a common practice
4 during the entire time that they've known each other, and I
5 don't want that.

6 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, I don't think that the fact
7 that Michele Fiore provided the information for contribution
8 and expenses returns afoul of your 404 ruling. It's not an
9 other act within the meaning of 404 that would be used to
10 demonstrate anything other than this was the practice and how
11 they prepared C&Es. If -- you know, if there's -- if the
12 implication is that the inference that this was how she
13 prepared C&Es in the past is somehow a bad act, I -- one, it's
14 not something I plan to address with this witness, nor is it,
15 I think, a concern that we need to worry about in kind of
16 limiting the specific time frame here.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm inclined to agree at this
18 point. I'll keep this in mind, and certainly you will, too,
19 in the event that this starts to become an issue with respect
20 to specific transactions.

21 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

22 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

23 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

24 *(End of discussion at sidebar.)*

25 **THE COURT:** You can continue your inquiry, Mr. Askar.

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1 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

2 **BY MR. ASKAR:**

3 Q. So, Ms. Council, I want to make sure I understand this.

4 So once you've input the information into the
5 Secretary of State's website based on the information that
6 Michele Fiore provides you --

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. -- was she provided an opportunity to then, you know,
9 essentially give final approval before it's filed?

10 A. Yeah. We -- we send a draft and ask for approval before
11 it's submitted.

12 Q. All right. Ms. Council, with that, actually, I have no
13 further questions for you. So now Mr. Sanft is going to have
14 an opportunity to ask you some questions, and then we'll see
15 where we go from there. Thank you very much.

16 A. Okay.

17 **THE COURT:** Mr. Sanft?

18 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

19 **BY MR. SANFT:**

20 Q. Good morning, Ms. Council.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. Some my name's Michael Sanft. I represent Michele. Just
23 a couple of follow-up questions for you, if I could.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. There was a question with regards to whether or not you

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1 had done any work for any charitable -- or any charities for
2 Michele. That -- of course the answer is no?

3 **A.** Correct.

4 Q. Now, with regards to the political action committee that
5 she had, you were aware, of course, that this was a community
6 outreach political action committee?

7 **A.** Correct.

8 Q. And as a result of the political -- or the community
9 outreach, you were helping her with regards to fundraising
10 through the political action committee?

11 **A.** Correct.

12 Q. Now, your experience with Ms. Fiore is that, during the
13 time period, specifically around the time we're talking about
14 with the statue here, you had observed Ms. Fiore conducting
15 business as usual as a politician?

16 **A.** Correct.

17 Q. Now, one of the things is -- of course, is that also
18 involved community outreach-type of events?

19 **A.** Yes.

20 **MR. ASKAR:** Objection, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** What's the objection?

22 **MR. ASKAR:** At this point can we move to sidebar,
23 Your Honor?

24 **THE COURT:** All right. We're going to take another
25 quick sidebar. We'll be with you in just a minute,

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1 Ms. Council.

2 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

3 *(At sidebar on the record.)*

4 **THE COURT:** Mr. Askar.

5 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, Mr. Sanft's questioning
6 regarding community events runs afoul of the Court's 404(b)
7 good acts ruling and it's in the government's omnibus motion
8 by trying to solicit community events that are not
9 demonstrably related to the funds at issue here. Mr. Sanft is
10 attempting to demonstrate that Ms. Fiore had good character,
11 that she did events in the community. It runs directly afoul
12 of the Court's ruling of the omnibus motion.

13 **THE COURT:** Mr. Sanft, is that what you're doing?

14 **MR. SANFT:** No, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** What's going on?

16 **MR. SANFT:** If the Court would recall the first line
17 of questioning with regards to Ms. Council, I framed it within
18 the time period of the statute to make sure that we were in
19 that time period. Our position is, is that Ms. Fiore was
20 using the funds that the government is alleging was for other
21 personal purposes but she was reallocating funds to be used in
22 the other things that she was doing, the other charitable work
23 she was doing as a city councilwoman. And so as a result, I
24 think I can get into that questioning because I'm
25 demonstrating basically that she was using activities and the

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1 money that she was using for those activities came from the
2 money that was fundraised for the statue, which is my entire
3 theory of my defense -- you're welcome -- but that's literally
4 where I'm going with that.

5 So as a result, I'm not asking for prior to the
6 statue. I'm talking about her experience from the time of the
7 statue forward.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm going to give you some leeway
9 on this. Make it clear we're talking -- make the time frame
10 clear, please.

11 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, ma'am.

12 **THE COURT:** Let's see where this goes.

13 **MR. SANFT:** Yep.

14 *(End of discussion at sidebar.)*

15 **THE COURT:** You can proceed, Mr. Sanft.

16 **MR. SANFT:** Thank you, Your Honor.

17 **BY MR. SANFT:**

18 Q. Ms. Council, we haven't lost you yet?

19 A. I'm here.

20 Q. All right. And I appreciate you still being there.

21 Now, the -- I want to make sure I'm clear as to the
22 time period that I'm talking about. This is during the time
23 of the Alyn Beck statue, which I don't know if you recall.
24 Are you aware of when the groundbreaking ceremony was for the
25 park for the Alyn Beck statue?

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1 **A.** I know nothing about the statue at all or any of that.

2 **Q.** Okay. I'm going to just represent to you it's from
3 December of 2018 is when the Alyn Beck statue was -- the
4 groundbreaking had occurred.

5 But let me ask you some questions based upon from
6 that time period forward. Your understanding, though, was
7 that Michele's -- was a prolific fundraiser during this time
8 period forward?

9 **A.** Absolutely. Correct.

10 **Q.** Okay. And you were aware that, unlike your other
11 clients, she was constantly fundraising money, you know, from
12 that time period forward all the time?

13 **A.** Correct.

14 **Q.** Now, in addition to that, with regards to her home, at
15 the time that you knew her living in her home, that particular
16 home wasn't, say, as opulent or it wasn't extravagant based
17 upon your history with Michele. Fair?

18 **A.** Fair.

19 **Q.** Okay. Meaning that prior to her -- based upon your --
20 your personal interaction with Michele, prior to her living
21 there, she was actually -- she had her own business and so
22 forth, and she actually had very sort of --

23 **MR. ASKAR:** Objection, Your Honor, to the relevance
24 of this line of questioning.

25 **THE COURT:** I'm a little more concerned that we don't

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1 have a foundation for it. She hasn't laid a foundation for
2 knowing anything about --

3 **MR. SANFT:** Okay.

4 **THE COURT:** -- the defendant's home or lifestyle.

5 **MR. SANFT:** Sure.

6 **BY MR. SANFT:**

7 Q. Let me ask you this --

8 **THE COURT:** So let's try that.

9 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

10 **BY MR. SANFT:**

11 Q. So, Ms. Council, how long have you known Michele Fiore?

12 **A.** Ten years at least.

13 Q. Okay. And the work that you've done for Michele Fiore,
14 did that just involve her being a city councilwoman?

15 **A.** No.

16 Q. Okay. What other work did you do within your job or
17 your -- your company for Michele besides her being on the City
18 Council?

19 **A.** It was specifically fundraising, and she was an
20 assemblywoman. And it was on and off. We didn't work
21 consistently for all those years for her. There would be
22 different times and -- but it was on and off.

23 Q. Right.

24 **A.** It was always political, political fundraising.

25 Q. Right. And with regard to that political fundraising,

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1 fair to say that typically it's seasonal; right? I mean, it
2 sort of ebbs and flows depending on what time of the term
3 we're talking about usually; right?

4 **A.** Correct.

5 **Q.** Okay.

6 **A.** Correct.

7 **Q.** But with regards to Michele, you had mentioned earlier
8 and shared with us that you had actually been to her
9 daughter's wedding, Michele had been to your wedding, and so
10 forth, so you had more than just the business relationship
11 with Michele?

12 **A.** Correct.

13 **Q.** Would it be fair to say that you two are friends?

14 **A.** Yes.

15 **Q.** And even now, as we're sitting here today, you're still
16 friends with Michele Fiore?

17 **A.** We have not talked for quite awhile. We did text, but we
18 haven't text for a while. But yes.

19 **Q.** Okay. And with regards to your relationship with Michele
20 Fiore, you've had opportunities during the time that you've
21 known her as a friend to be to her home?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Not just for business purposes but for personal purposes
24 or friend purposes?

25 **A.** It was very rare. I have -- most of the time was work

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1 related, somehow work related, whether it was, you know, for
2 an event or -- I may have -- when she lived in her other home,
3 I went there because she gave me some saddles for my horse.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So that was not work related.

6 Q. I see. So with regards to the previous home that you had
7 been in, can you describe for us a little bit about what that
8 home was in terms of what your recollection was about that
9 home?

10 A. Very large property. Very, very fancy. Very expensive.
11 And the part of town it was in, surrounded by other very nice
12 homes.

13 Q. And do you know -- do you know how that home -- I mean,
14 do you know at the time what Michele was doing in terms of her
15 work, like, besides being an assemblywoman?

16 A. I -- she owned her own business. I think it was a --
17 like a home health care, I believe. That was a long time ago,
18 so...

19 Q. Okay. Now, in -- so fast-forward now to what we're
20 talking about, which is from the time of December of 2018 on,
21 is that the same home that she was living in at the time of --
22 the end of 2018 and on?

23 A. No. No.

24 Q. Okay. And with regards to the time that she was living
25 in this bigger home, was she on the City Council at the time?

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1 **A.** I don't -- I don't know in that -- when she moved from
2 the one house to the other. I don't know.

3 **Q.** That's fair. I appreciate you being accurate with us.

4 Now, let me ask you this. The -- at the time that
5 you were working with Michele, there was some discussion here
6 about you would do her C&Es for her. Those C&Es are filed on
7 a quarterly basis?

8 **A.** I'm not -- honestly, I'm not sure.

9 **Q.** Okay.

10 **A.** I think so.

11 **Q.** All right. And -- and with regards to the C&Es in terms
12 of the information you receive, it's the information that
13 the -- that the client gives you that you then input into a
14 form online for the state of Nevada?

15 **A.** Correct.

16 **Q.** Okay. Now, in terms of your role with Michele, fair to
17 say that you weren't necessarily someone who advised her as to
18 what to do. You helped her with what she wanted you to do.
19 Fair?

20 **A.** Fair.

21 **Q.** Meaning that, if she had projects or things that she
22 wanted to get done, she would ask you for help on those
23 projects, and then you would charge her accordingly?

24 **A.** I wouldn't say projects. I mean, we only did
25 fundraising.

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1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. So specifically for fundraising. And like I said before,
3 it was always a political action committee or for one of her
4 campaigns.

5 Q. And with regards to Michele's activity as -- as a -- as a
6 politician, from December of 2018 forward, she was very active
7 with regards to her role as the city councilwoman for Ward 6?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Can you describe for us a little bit about what
10 kind of activity we're talking about here?

11 A. Specifically she was very good about having community
12 events for the residents in her ward. She would have, you
13 know, the Christmas parties and dinners and different events
14 to bring the community together.

15 Q. Okay. Did she have any, like, really, you know,
16 elaborate events like, say, black-tie affairs over at the Wynn
17 or anything like that?

18 A. Not that I know of, but I don't know that she did not. I
19 wasn't a part of it.

20 Q. Sure. We're just asking for your personal knowledge,
21 ma'am.

22 A. No, not that I know of.

23 Q. And during the time of the COVID pandemic, was she still
24 active in terms of her outreach to her constituents in Ward 6?

25 **MR. ASKAR:** Okay. Your Honor?

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1 **THE WITNESS:** I believe so. I mean --

2 **MR. ASKAR:** At this time --

3 **THE COURT:** Hold on just a second. We have an
4 objection. The objection?

5 **MR. ASKAR:** I'd like to renew the objection given
6 that we're now exiting the temporal scope we're talking about.
7 I believe we're now exiting February 2020.

8 **THE COURT:** Mr. Sanft?

9 **MR. SANFT:** I think it stills falls in line with
10 regards to activity she was doing even beyond that moment,
11 Your Honor. I can expand a little bit more at sidebar, but
12 the idea would be is that she was still performing what she
13 was doing during that --

14 **THE COURT:** I'm going to let you ask and get an
15 answer to this last question that you did, but I think beyond
16 that, temporally I think we're -- we're outside the scope.

17 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, ma'am.

18 **THE COURT:** If you can go ahead and reask that
19 question so that she can provide us a complete answer?

20 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, ma'am.

21 **BY MR. SANFT:**

22 Q. All right. Ronnie, are you there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. Let me ask you this question. So with
25 regards to during the time period -- and we're talking, you

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1 know, the start of the COVID pandemic, around that time
2 period, she was still active in terms of her outreach to her
3 constituents in Ward 6?

4 **A.** Yes.

5 Q. Now, in addition to that, we had talked a little bit
6 about not hanging out on a regular basis. Fair to say that,
7 during the time period that we're talking about, which is,
8 once again, December of 2018 until February of 2020, during
9 this time period, your relationship with Michele Fiore, you
10 didn't see anything that would have been considered to be
11 unusual about her; right?

12 **A.** No.

13 Q. Any issues with regards to financial problems? Did she
14 ever, you know, share with you as a friend, hey, you know, I
15 don't know if I'm going to be able to make my bills, or
16 anything along those lines?

17 **A.** We never discussed stuff like that, so no.

18 Q. All right. And in that time period as well, you also had
19 hired Michele's daughter as part of -- one of the employees in
20 your company; is that right?

21 **A.** I don't know exactly -- I don't know the time period, but
22 yes.

23 Q. Okay. And that person is Sheena Siegel?

24 **A.** Correct.

25 Q. All right. And with regards to Sheena Siegel, can you

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1 describe for us a little bit about the kind of work that she
2 did for you? Was she a hard worker, or was she there just
3 because her mom set her up with a job?

4 **A.** No, she was -- she was a hard worker.

5 **Q.** All right. And she -- I apologize. Go ahead.

6 **A.** Go ahead. She was a hard worker.

7 **Q.** Okay.

8 **MR. SANFT:** Your Honor, I have no further questions.

9 **THE COURT:** Anything else, Mr. Askar?

10 **MR. ASKAR:** Briefly, Your Honor.

11 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

12 **BY MR. ASKAR:**

13 **Q.** Ms. Council, Mr. Sanft asked you questions about
14 Ms. Fiore's PAC and community outreach. Were you aware that
15 the PAC didn't change its purpose to community outreach until
16 February 28th of 2020?

17 **A.** No, I wasn't. I -- when I say community outreach --

18 **Q.** No, miss --

19 **A.** -- I know that --

20 **Q.** Ms. Council, I completely understand. I just want to
21 make sure we're -- I just want to make sure we're clear. You
22 were not aware that the PAC changed its purpose to community
23 outreach until February 28th --

24 **A.** No.

25 **Q.** -- of 2020?

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1 **A.** No.

2 **Q.** Were you aware that before that the PAC's purpose was to
3 raise funds and educate Nevadans? Nevadans, excuse me.

4 **A.** I wasn't sure. To me it's the same, you know? It was
5 for her residents specifically.

6 **Q.** Yeah.

7 **A.** So educate -- I wasn't really aware what her PAC exactly
8 was.

9 **Q.** That makes perfect sense.

10 Now I want to talk to you about Mr. Sanft's questions
11 concerning, you know, her lifestyle before December of 2018.
12 Were you aware that Ms. Fiore started running for political
13 office in 2010?

14 **A.** I believe so.

15 **Q.** And then Mr. Sanft also talked to you about, you know,
16 you just helping Ms. Fiore input the information into the C&E
17 documents on the State -- Secretary of State's website; right?

18 **A.** Correct.

19 **Q.** Okay. And as you mentioned earlier, did you have access
20 to Ms. Fiore's personal -- did you have access to Ms. Fiore's
21 political action committee or campaign bank accounts?

22 **A.** Never.

23 **Q.** Now, I'm not asking about any other specific clients or
24 even all your clients, but do some of your clients give you
25 access to their accounts so that you can use their bank

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1 records to input the information accurately?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** Thank you.

4 **MR. ASKAR:** No further questions.

5 **THE COURT:** Anything else, Mr. Sanft?

6 **MR. SANFT:** No, Your Honor.

7 **THE COURT:** All right. So can we excuse Ms. Council?

8 **MR. ASKAR:** Please, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** All right. Ms. Council, we're going to
10 go ahead and disconnect with you. Thank you so much. Good
11 luck with the hurricane.

12 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

13 **THE COURT:** Next witness, Mr. Askar.

14 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, at this time the government
15 calls Ms. Tara Krumme. And, Your Honor, we anticipate that
16 this will be our last witness for the day.

17 **THE COURT:** All right. Hi. You're going to head
18 right on up here.

19 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Just walk around here.
20 Raise your right hand.

21 *(The witness is sworn.)*

22 **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

23 **COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR:** Go ahead and take a seat.
24 And then just state and spell your first and last name.

25 **THE WITNESS:** Tara Krumme. Spell my last name?

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1 K-r-u-m-m-e.

2 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

3 **BY MR. ASKAR:**

4 Q. Good morning, Ms. Krumme.

5 A. Good morning.

6 Q. What do you do for a living, Ms. Krumme?

7 A. I fundraise for political candidates.

8 Q. And what company do you work for?

9 A. Alchemy.

10 Q. In your capacity as a political fundraiser for Alchemy,
11 have you ever worked with the defendant?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Ballpark the time period. Do you remember around when
14 you worked with the defendant, Michele Fiore?

15 A. 2018 to 2021.

16 Q. Great. And what sort of work did you do with the
17 defendant, Michele Fiore?

18 A. We fundraised for her PAC and for her City Council
19 account.

20 Q. Okay. You mentioned you fundraised for her PAC. Was
21 that the Future for Nevadans PAC?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then you mentioned the campaign. Would that be Fiore
24 for Nevada?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Now, Ms. Krumme, I want to talk a little bit about the
2 services that Alchemy Associates -- that Alchemy Associates
3 provides. Could you turn to that -- in that binder to
4 Exhibit 39? Actually, you know what, Ms. Krumme? One moment.

5 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, I'm realizing right now
6 defense counsel has stipulated to the admissibility of this
7 document. So I'm going to actually just move in Exhibit 39 so
8 that we can pull it up on the screen with the Court's
9 permission.

10 *(Exhibit No. 39, offered.)*

11 **MR. SANFT:** That is correct, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. It can come in, and you can
13 just put it on the screen. So it will be -- in a second it
14 will be over there to your left.

15 *(Exhibit No. 39, received.)*

16 **BY MR. ASKAR:**

17 Q. All right. Ms. Krumme, on Exhibit 39 that's on your
18 screen over there, in the "To" line, is that the campaign we
19 were talking about?

20 **A.** Yes.

21 Q. And could you talk us through -- and you can read the
22 document if you'd like. But could you talk us through what
23 the services that Alchemy Associates would provide to Michele
24 Fiore's campaign or political action committee based on this
25 document?

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1 **A.** Basically we would facilitate making phone calls. We
2 would, you know, provide a list for her, and we would sit down
3 and say, hey, this is who you're calling. And, I mean, we
4 would reach out to these people if they -- or if they said
5 that they would contribute, we would follow up. We would send
6 e-mails. We basically were just there to facilitate her
7 making the phone calls.

8 **Q.** Okay. Now, let's break that down a little bit. You said
9 you're there to facilitate making phone calls and you're
10 providing people to call. When you say we're facilitating
11 phone calls, does that mean facilitating calls to potential
12 donors?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** So you're reaching out to people that Alchemy or
15 Ms. Fiore have identified to donate to the campaigns; is that
16 how that works?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** And then you mentioned you're providing her names and
19 numbers?

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** Would you then be present while she was making some of
22 these phone calls?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** From December of 2018 through about February of 2020, do
25 you ever recall Ms. Fiore asking her political donors about

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1 the Alyn Beck statue?

2 **A.** I can definitively say once I can remember. I don't --
3 but other than that...

4 Q. Okay. So you're saying you remember about one time --

5 **A.** Yeah.

6 Q. -- from December of 2018 to February of 2020 her using
7 Alchemy -- her using an Alchemy donor, excuse me --

8 **A.** Yes.

9 Q. -- to fundraise for the Alyn Beck statue?

10 **A.** (Nods head up and down.)

11 Q. About how many calls would Michele Fiore make in a given
12 week? I know it's going to vary but ballpark.

13 **A.** Probably about 50 to 75 -- it just depends on who
14 answers, who doesn't; if you get a lot of voice mails, if not.
15 But, I mean, she would make the normal amount, about 50 calls,
16 70.

17 Q. So about 75 -- 50 to -- let's go with 50.

18 **A.** Um-hum.

19 Q. Fifty calls a week for December 2018 to February of 2020?
20 I'm not even going to try and do that math. But in all of
21 those phone calls you remember one time she asked about the
22 Alyn Beck statue?

23 **A.** One time that I was paying attention, yeah.

24 Q. Totally fair.

25 Let's talk a little bit about --

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1 **MR. ASKAR:** And, Heather, we can remove Exhibit 39.
2 Thank you so much.

3 **BY MR. ASKAR:**

4 Q. Let's talk a little bit about C&E Reports.

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. What are Contribution & Expense Reports?

7 A. It's basically just a document that gets uploaded to the
8 Secretary of State which would allow everyone basically to see
9 what contributions you received within the time frame and what
10 expenditures you made within that same time frame.

11 Q. And did you assist in the filing of Michele Fiore's
12 Contribution & Expense Reports --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- for her campaign and political action committee?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. All right. Can you walk us through what that process
17 looks like?

18 A. Like when I filed her report?

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. Well, when I filed -- she would -- they would send over
21 basically a spreadsheet and say, hey, will you upload this?
22 And we would go through and upload, find addresses, things
23 that were just miscellaneously missing.

24 Q. Okay. Let's walk through that piece by piece. When you
25 say they would send over a spreadsheet, who's "they"?

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1 **A.** Sheena -- well, Sheena typically, and then Michele would
2 review it.

3 **Q.** Okay. So you mentioned Sheena. Who is Sheena?

4 **A.** Sheena is Michele's daughter.

5 **Q.** And so Sheena or Michele would send you over a
6 spreadsheet?

7 **A.** Well, typically it would be Sheena.

8 **Q.** Okay. So Sheena would send you over a spreadsheet?

9 **A.** Yeah.

10 **Q.** And then what would you do with that spreadsheet?

11 **A.** I would make sure it had all the information that it
12 needed to have, and then I would upload it. And once you
13 upload it, you get a document that basically is, like, the
14 mock document that would be the final. And I would send it
15 over and wait for approval to post.

16 **Q.** Okay. Who would you send it over to?

17 **A.** Sheena and Michele.

18 **Q.** All right. And who has final approval over C&E Reports
19 before they're filed?

20 **A.** The candidate, so Michele.

21 **Q.** Now, you mentioned again that they sent you over these
22 spreadsheets. Does that mean that in order to input the
23 information into the C&Es, you kind of have to rely on the
24 accuracy of the spreadsheet?

25 **A.** Yes.

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1 Q. Were you ever given access to the political action
2 committee or the campaign bank accounts?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Have you assisted other clients in your work at Alchemy?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do any of those other clients give you access to -- and I
7 want to be really clear. I'm not asking specifics about each
8 client or for any names, but do any of the other clients give
9 you access to the bank accounts so that you can put that
10 information in directly from the receipts?

11 A. Typically we -- we are either signers on the bank or we
12 set up their bank account with them, that way we just --
13 everyone kind of can see what's going on.

14 Q. But that wasn't the case for Michele Fiore's political
15 action committee or campaign; right?

16 A. Well, it was established before she came to us, so yes.

17 Q. Now, I also want to talk about an organization called
18 Hamlet Events with you for a moment. Are you familiar with
19 Hamlet Events?

20 A. Like, do I know whose it is or? I became aware of it,
21 yes.

22 Q. What is -- who -- who is -- let me ask that question
23 better.

24 What is Hamlet Events to the best of your knowledge?

25 A. It was an event coordinating/planning service, I guess.

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1 Q. And who runs Hamlet Events?

2 A. I believe it was Sheena.

3 Q. And that's the same Sheena you were talking about a
4 moment ago, Michele Fiore's daughter?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. Ms. Krumme, you've -- how long have you been
7 with Alchemy?

8 A. About 10, 12 years.

9 Q. In the 10 to 12 years you've been at Alchemy, are you
10 aware of any other political candidate or political action
11 committee that used Hamlet Events besides Michele Fiore?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Now I want to talk to you about an organization called A
14 Bright Present Foundation. Do you know what that organization
15 is?

16 A. I didn't until recently.

17 Q. Until recently. Do you mean when me and the FBI came and
18 spoke to you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would it be fair to say then that in the time that you
21 spent fundraising for Michele Fiore's political action
22 committee and campaign, that you weren't asked to fundraise
23 for A Bright Present Foundation?

24 A. Correct. Well, not to my knowledge.

25 Q. Not to your knowledge?

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1 **A.** Right.

2 **Q.** And would it also be fair to say that, if you were to be
3 asked to fundraise for A Bright Present Foundation, is it your
4 understanding that that would have to be discussed and
5 approved by the owner of Alchemy Associates, Ronnie Council?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** All right. I want to put up something that's in evidence
8 as Exhibit 89. Do you see Exhibit 89 on the screen?

9 **A.** Yes.

10 **Q.** Now, Exhibit 89 is dated December 6th of 2019; right?

11 **A.** Um-hum.

12 **Q.** And it's for \$3,350; right?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** And it's a check from A Bright Present Foundation, Inc.;
15 right?

16 **A.** Yes.

17 **Q.** And it's made out to Alchemy?

18 **A.** Um-hum.

19 **Q.** And during this period of time, I just want to make sure
20 we're clear, it's -- to the best of your knowledge, A Bright
21 Present Foundation had not received any services from Alchemy
22 Associates under your work for Michele Fiore; right?

23 **A.** Yeah, not to my knowledge.

24 **Q.** Thank you so much, Ms. Krumme. I have nothing further.

25 **THE COURT:** Mr. Sanft?

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1 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor.

2 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

3 **BY MR. SANFT:**

4 Q. Hello, Ms. Krumme.

5 A. Hello.

6 Q. Have we ever met before?

7 A. No.

8 Q. All right. I'm just going to ask you some follow-up
9 questions here, and it should be relatively short.

10 First question is, is that during the time period
11 we're talking about, which would have been from December of
12 2018 to about February or January of 2020 --

13 A. Um-hum.

14 Q. Is that a "yes"?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. During that time period, that's the time period
17 you're talking about here in terms of what you recall was
18 happening with your interaction with Michele Fiore?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. You were aware, though, that there was negative
21 publicity surrounding Michele in terms of, like, criticisms
22 from, like, the Review-Journal, for instance, for some of her
23 spending and so forth?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Specifically there were articles that were written about

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1 reviews on the C&Es and then questions that were asked about
2 those --

3 **A.** Yes.

4 **Q.** -- those expenditures?

5 And that obviously was a concern to Michele?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Now, one of the things that you had talked about, you had
8 said that you had heard Michele make one phone call, I guess,
9 in furtherance of fundraising for the statue?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** Did you ever -- during this time period, ever make calls
12 to either ask for sort of like a general fund sort of thing
13 that may have included the statue in it?

14 **A.** No.

15 **Q.** And in the meantime, as you had recalled, the document
16 that the government had put up --

17 **MR. SANFT:** Can we put up that document again?

18 **MR. ASKAR:** Which one?

19 **MR. SANFT:** The letter.

20 *(Conferring amongst counsel.)*

21 **BY MR. SANFT:**

22 **Q.** The government showed you this -- this contract.

23 **MR. SANFT:** And, for the record, this is
24 Government's Exhibit 39. Heather, can you turn to the next
25 page?

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1 **BY MR. SANFT:**

2 Q. Now, this is a contract specifically for a certain thing;
3 right? Meaning, this particular contract that the government
4 showed you is a contract that said I'm running for office, and
5 it looks like here she would have been running for Las Vegas
6 City Council Ward 6?

7 **A.** Um-hum.

8 Q. Is that a "yes"?

9 **A.** Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And I'm just pointing, just for the record, to the
11 terms on the second page, to the second paragraph about a win
12 bonus if Michele wins and becomes ward -- the Ward 6
13 councilwoman.

14 **A.** Yes.

15 Q. Okay. All right. And with regards to that, fair to say
16 that every time Alchemy Associates was working on something,
17 they had to have had a contract for whatever they're working
18 on?

19 **A.** Yes.

20 Q. Okay. So, for instance, they had one for the political
21 action committee for Michele, as far as you know?

22 **A.** As far as I know.

23 Q. Yeah.

24 **A.** It was formed prior to me.

25 Q. Sure. And I want to make sure. Maybe I'm being a little

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1 bit unfair here. You're not part of the creation of this
2 particular contract; right?

3 **A.** Right, not at that time.

4 **Q.** Right. This would have been something that would have
5 been done by Ronnie Council or somebody else?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Okay. But in terms of your personal knowledge, there was
8 no such contract for the charity that we're talking about
9 here, A Bright Present, was there?

10 **A.** Correct.

11 **Q.** Okay. So, as a result, you wouldn't have been working on
12 it anyhow?

13 **A.** Right.

14 **Q.** Okay. I have no further questions. Thank you.

15 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, we ask that the witness be
16 excused.

17 **MR. SANFT:** No objection, Your Honor.

18 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you. You can step
19 down. Please watch your step right there. And then the one
20 right in front of the jury box. Thank you.

21 Is that our last witness for the day?

22 **MR. ASKAR:** (Nods head up and down.)

23 It is, Your Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** Well, we have great news for you. That
25 is the last witness we have for the day, so we are going to

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1 end court early today. Excuse me.

2 We will resume on Monday morning at 8:30 again. So
3 we're going back to our normal schedule. And so if we can
4 have you-all ready to be in your seats at 8:30 so that we can
5 pick up with our next set of witnesses.

6 Mr. Askar?

7 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, just for the Court and the
8 jurors' attention, there may be some increased security at the
9 courthouse on Monday. So to the extent folks are concerned
10 about timing, we just want to flag that.

11 **THE COURT:** Yeah. Maybe give yourself a few extra
12 minutes to get here on Monday. Thank you for that
13 information.

14 All right. So over the weekend, please remember the
15 rules. Don't talk about the case among yourselves or with
16 anybody else. Don't read or view or listen to anything about
17 this case. Don't conduct any of your own research. Don't
18 Google anything that you've thought about while you've been
19 sitting here. And please wait to formulate your final
20 opinions until you have heard all of the evidence and my
21 instructions of law.

22 We appreciate all of your time and attention this
23 week, and we will see you in these seats again at 8:30 on
24 Monday. Thanks, everybody.

25 *(Jury out at 10:37 a.m.)*

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1 **THE COURT:** We'll try to get you a breakfast pizza
2 next week.

3 **A JUROR:** Woo-hoo.

4 **THE COURT:** Have a good weekend.

5 **A JUROR:** You, too.

6 **THE COURT:** Have a good weekend.

7 **A JUROR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** Summer, go ahead and shut the door.

9 All right. Let's talk about that Monday schedule.
10 Are we going all day Monday? Where does the government think
11 they're going to be at on Monday?

12 **MR. ASKAR:** Your Honor, we anticipate calling five to
13 six witnesses on Monday. We believe that we -- you know, as
14 long as the Court won't hold us exactly to it, we believe that
15 we should be able to rest our case-in-chief sometime around
16 1:00 o'clock.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. Mr. Sanft, do you think you're
18 going to be able to get some witnesses here on Monday in the
19 event that there is some time?

20 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, Your Honor. I think I could get at
21 least one, maybe two.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Fantastic. And based on where
23 we're at right now, where are we looking at for closing about?
24 Mr. Sanft?

25 **MR. SANFT:** My -- my understanding would be is that

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1 we would probably be done with our case-in-chief by Wednesday
2 morning. So, like, by the time of the break for the jury for
3 the 30-minute break. I think we should be done by that point
4 on Wednesday.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. Well, then I will start making
6 sure I have a solid draft of jury instructions so that we can
7 do our charge conference before we get to that point.

8 Is there anything else then that I need to address
9 today before we send everybody home?

10 **MR. ASKAR:** I don't believe at this moment,
11 Your Honor.

12 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** I just wanted to clarify. For the
13 charge conference, are we looking at that Monday or Wednesday?

14 **THE COURT:** Sure.

15 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Okay. All right.

16 **THE COURT:** I don't -- I don't know which day. It's
17 going to depend, and I'll just kind of shove it in wherever we
18 got time --

19 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Okay.

20 **THE COURT:** -- the first time we do. It's still a
21 little early for it right now. I think we need to let the
22 defense probably do some -- some -- maybe get a witness on.
23 We'll see. And -- we'll see; right? So I'll make sure that
24 you-all have drafts of them before we have a charge conference
25 so that we have an intelligent conversation and you've had an

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1 opportunity to thoughtfully consider all of the instructions
2 before we talk about them.

3 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** Again, the fact that you've all submitted
5 joint proposed instructions makes it a lot easier. So that's
6 where we're at. But I will -- in fact, I got time today, so
7 I'll work on some of that today.

8 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

9 I think the only other thing, you know, we anticipate
10 potentially some supplementary briefing even -- we are going
11 to attempt to talk to defense counsel after this to try and
12 get a better sense of some of the witnesses on defense
13 counsel's list so that we can make intelligent arguments to
14 the Court ahead of time about their potential relevance or
15 otherwise.

16 **THE COURT:** Got it. And just number wise, not name
17 wise, how many witnesses are you anticipating about?

18 **MR. SANFT:** Six, maybe seven. One of the witnesses
19 is not currently on our list, but we would be intending at
20 some point on calling Special Agent Jaski in our case-in-chief
21 if he is not called on Monday.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. Anything else,
23 Mr. Sanft?

24 **MR. SANFT:** Your Honor, the other special agent that
25 we would be calling that we have subpoenaed and we believe

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1 will be here Wednesday to testify would be Special Agent Cody
2 Fryxell who was the originating special agent on this case.

3 **THE COURT:** Recognizing the limitations of my motion
4 in limine order; right?

5 **MR. SANFT:** Yes, ma'am.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. Anything else we need
7 to address today, Mr. Sanft?

8 **MR. SANFT:** No, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, have a good weekend,
10 everybody. Let's plan to be back in here and ready to raise
11 any issues by 8:15, if there are any. And then we'll bring
12 the jury back in at 8:30 and start with our witnesses.

13 **MR. ASKAR:** Thank you, Your Honor.

14 **MR. GOTTFRIED:** Thank you, Your Honor.

15 **MR. SANFT:** Thank you, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** Thanks, everybody. Have a good weekend.

17 *(Proceedings adjourned at 10:42 a.m.)*

18 --o0o--

19 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

20 I, AMBER M. McCLANE, Official Court Reporter, United
21 States District Court, District of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada,
22 do hereby certify that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 753 the
23 foregoing is a true, complete, and correct transcript of the
24 proceedings had in connection with the above-entitled matter.
25 DATED: 12/5/2024

/s/ 
AMBER McCLANE, RPR, CRR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Amber McClane, RPR, CRR